RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 76

76.

76 –

Original
Letter of Mr. Taylor
to
Mr. Bradford

July 31. 1838

Filed by Mr. Taylor.

1

New Orleans Branch Mint July 31st 1838

David Bradford Esq. Superintendant

Sir.

On the suspension of our operations in anticipation of the sickly season, it is my duty to state to you the progress and condition of my department of this Institution, I have the honor therefore to submit the following report.

The amount of coinage at the present time is not exactly ascertained but cannot be much less than four hundred Thousand Dimes. of which over three hundred and sixty six thousand have been delivered, on your Warrants, to the Treasurer.

Contrary to the expectation held out in my last report, no other denomination of coin has been executed the reasons for this change in our plans are these. First the great complexity in the details of coining even a single denomination before the operations are properly systematized, and the consequent difficulty of securing that degree of accuracy which the law requires, and which it my pride to attain at once, until the workmen shall have become familiar with their several parts. This will be more clearly evident, when it is recollected that of these operations there are Twelve principal ones, not to mention the receiving and delivering, weighing twice daily, counting, matching, cleaning and returning clippings, besides repairing machinery with many more minor considerations and in the mean time to be building and arranging some of the works

Secondly it was thought that to direct our energies to the making of the small denominations of coin would be likely to confer the greatest amount of benefit upon the community in this section of the Country — And finally, the very limited number of men, employed in my department, has rendered it impracticable in our present stage of advancement, to keep up a supply of Planchets of even a single Kind for the full operation of a single coining Press, and at the same to do justice to the branches which are in the rear. In my last report I expressed strong apprehensions that expectation would be disappointed on account of the unavoidable tardiness of my preparations — The same

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 76

feelings of dread of unmerited censure, as well as an imperative sense of duty, have spurred me forward with all the energy of which I was capable and I regret that I have not been able to get all the Presses into operation before the operations were suspended. I feel the conscious assurance however, of that the foundations have been laid for securing the most rapid as well as the most perfect coinage

A great cause of delay has been has been found in the imperfection of the rolls this source of evil has been removed completely by the adoption of a new and most efficient method of dressing the rolls which nothing to be desired in that particular. This improvement will be found to be of immense importance in our future operations. It would be a vain task to undertake to enumerate all the various hindrances and disappointments which have tended to retard our progress, such the want for a long time of weighing Ballances and to the present time of any thing like suitable weights although the Ballances ordered from France are now in our possession I had intended to have executed some of the half Dime coins before closing for the season but that was found impracticable without continuing another week in operation, which I think upon the whole was not advisable

It may be proper here to state that a part of the men only have been re engaged for the next year, and even those I have been under the necessity of ~~giving~~ allowing a small advance of wages, in some instances, but in no case will the wages given exceed the fair value of the workmen, at the rate of wages, paid in other employments

Agreeably to your request I have ~~engag~~ engaged two men to remain (throng the summer) in the mint, to keep in complete order my department. Mr M. P. Denny I have appointed Foreman of Machinery at a salary of Twelve hundred dollars per annum, and Mr Cavalier remains at his former wages of $3. per day

Since coining operations commenced I have received from the Treasurer 39,922,560 grains of silver in Ingots, and I have returned, in coins on your warrants, the sum of 15,130,561 grains, and in clippings also on your warrants agreeably to law the amount of 23,512,416 grains in clippings &c.

over

The small remainder of Bullion received from the Treasurer remains in my vaults to be accounted for at the yearly Settlement when the account will be regularly brought up. The whole of my department is put in complete order for remaining suspended till November next when it believed we shall resume our business with every prospect of an effective season.

Very respectfully

Your Obdt Servt

Rufus Tyler

Coiner